

DETAILED ACTION

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

After thorough consideration, the examiner finds support for the previously rejected feature "maintaining in a separate account up to one single share of each investment in which there is at least one trading order for a fractional share of said each investment" in the specification. As such, this feature is now given patentable weight.

The examiner asserts that the cited references, namely Champion et al, Perham, Dibben, Newberry, and Pender, are the most relevant prior arts found. The cited references, either taken alone or in combination, do not teach the claimed feature "maintaining in a separate account up to one single share of each investment in which there was at least one trading order for a fractional share of said each investment, wherein said maintaining includes holding any remaining fractional shares of said at least one investment after said allocating for subsequent trading". Applicant's amendment has overcome the previous 112 and 101 rejection. Therefore, claims 1-4 are in conditions of allowance.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HAO FU whose telephone number is (571)270-3441. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri/Mon-Thurs 11:30am-8:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, HANI KAZIMI can be reached on (571) 272-6745. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Hao Fu
Examiner
Art Unit 3696

OCT-09

/Hao Fu/
Examiner, Art Unit 3696

/Hani M. Kazimi/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3691